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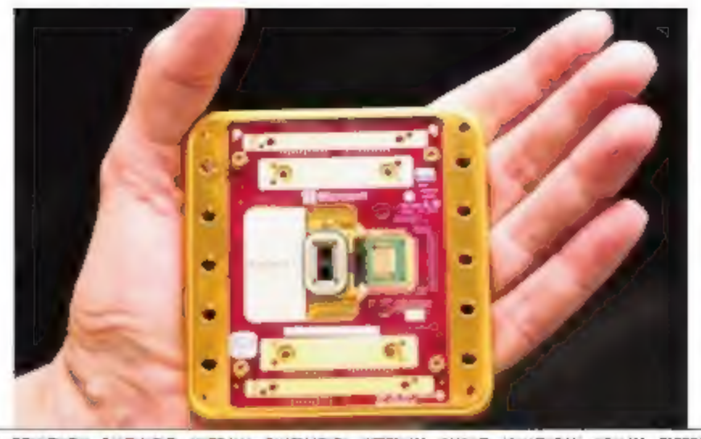

Microsoft announces quantum computing leap with new chip

The US tech giant on Wednesday unveiled Majorana 1, the world's first quantum chip that uses a new type of material called topoconductor. The new chip, Majorana 1, will help build quantum computers capable of solving industrial-scale problems in years, not decades, Microsoft said. "Imagine a chip that can fit in the palm of your hand yet is capable of solving problems that even all the computers on Earth today combined could not!"

MUDA CASE

Lokayukta clean chit to Siddu, wife

BK LAKSHMIKANTHA @Mysuru

KARNATAKA Lokayukta has given a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi, and two others in the alleged scam in allotment of sites by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

A notice was sent to complainant Snehamayi Krishna, an RTI activist, on Wednesday stating that he may challenge the Lokayukta probe report within a week before the designated magistrate.

The notice stated that the Lokayukta police conducted an investigation under various Sections of IPC, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, and the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011, against Siddaramaiah, Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy (Parvathi's brother) and land owner Devaraj and found that the case came under civil dispute. P4

EXPRESS READ

Milk price likely to go up by ₹5 after budget

Bengaluru: The price of Nandini milk is likely to be hiked by Rs 5 a litre after the state budget on March 7. The quantity of milk will also be reduced from the existing 1,050 ml to one litre. The cost of a litre of Nandini milk will increase to Rs 47. KMF MD B Shivaswamy told TNIE the final decision now rests with the chief minister. P4

BJP crosses gender Rekha for CM choice

To take oath at Ramlila Maidan today

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

IN a loaded prediction, a senior BJP leader had on Monday told this journalist, "Delhi *me vikas ka ek naya 'rekha' kichna hai prime minister sahib ko*" (The PM has to draw a new line of development in Delhi). The wordplay barely concealed the name of the eventual pick as chief minister-designate Rekha Gupta. How sure was he about it? The senior leader was emphatic: "Go, write it on a 100 rupee note."

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been urging the party to set an example for *Nari Shakti* by assigning a woman to lead the national capital.

Gupta's name was in circulation ever since exit polls predicted a stunning BJP victory. On Wednesday, the BJP Legislative Party elected her as the leader of the House. She will take her oath of office at Ramlila Maidan on Thursday.

A first-time legislator, Gupta has a strong RSS background. She also earned the respect of party MLAs and has experience in governance. She cut her political teeth as a student leader of the Delhi University before becoming councillor.

"She was found suitable for the post of chief minister, as the right candidate must have the respect of all MLAs. She is also a good listener," sources said.

Rekha Gupta after being elected BJP's new CM of Delhi | PRAVEEN NEGI

Gupta's connect with the people and her performance as general secretary of the party's Mahila Morcha worked her favour. Other contenders for the role, such as Parvesh Verma, Satish Upadhyay, Ashish Sood, Pawan Sharma, and Shikha Roy, have less legislative experience than Gupta. Also, the Shalimar Bagh MLA enjoys popularity across various communities, including Jats (10% population), Vaishyas (8%) and others.

Sources said by giving her the baton, the BJP also sought to send a message to Bihar, where elections are due later this year. Baniyas in Bihar comprise around 30.26 lakh or 2.3% of the state's population, which gives them clout.

64% ROUTED VIA USAID; $20.1 MN ALLOCATED TO SPUR DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

BULK OF AID WENT TO US HEALTH INITIATIVES

JAYANTH JACOB & JITENDRA CHOUBEY @New Delhi

UNDER the Joe Biden administration, the US provided $720 million in assistance to India over the past four years, with 64% allocated to health initiatives, mostly managed by the now-defunct USAID, and $20.1 million for democratic participation and civil society — a sector that is currently sparking political controversy in India over spending on voter turnout, according to an analysis of US government data by this newspaper.

Ranked between 4th and 5th among 15 South and Central Asian countries, India's share of US assistance over the past four years was 35% less than Pakistan's $970 million, and significantly higher than China's $49.7 million during the same period.

However, in South Asia, Bangladesh received $1.89 billion, nearly 162% more than India. However, in 2022, India received $20 million more than Pakistan, totalling $250 million in aid, primarily due to post-COVID initiatives.

The health sector received a total of $462 million in the past four years for various programmes, including fighting HIV-AIDS administered through USAID.

Elon Musk, involved in the White House's efforts to reduce the size of the federal government, had previously called the USAID "a criminal organization" and claimed that Trump had agreed to shut it down.

Sanjeev Sanyal, the government's economic advisor, had accused USAID of playing a secret role in influencing policy in the health and social sector.

"Those concerned about USAID's interference in Indian elections should be equally concerned about USAID's tentacles in India's medical system and social policies. USAID effectively ran India's National Family Health Survey from the 1990s till it was stopped two years ago," he said.

Musk's figure of $21 million spent on the Indian elections aligns with the US data on money earmarked for democratic participation and civil society efforts in India.

In the 2024 election year, the US allocated $5.5 million toward voter turnout initiatives, with an additional $6.1 million spent in 2023 under the same category. Over the past four years, the total commitment for democratic participation was $20.1 million, of which $13.25 million was disbursed. However, the data does not specify the end beneficiaries.

"Why are we giving $21 million to India? They have a lot more money. They are one of the highest taxing countries in the world in terms of us; we can hardly get in there because their tariffs are so high," Trump told reporters.

MAJOR SECTOR-WISE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO INDIA FROM 2021-24 (IN MILLION USD)

SECTOR	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Health & population	61	190	130	81	462
Environmental policy and administrative management	5.5	8.7	11	17	42.2
Energy generation, renewable sources —technologies, policy	8	6.3	9	10	33.3
Education	1.9	5.6	6.3	7.5	21.3
Social protection	3.4	6.1	7.3	9.5	26.3

TNIE ANALYSIS

Why are we giving USD 21 million to India? They got a lot of money there

Donald Trump

Fresh 25% tariff may hit Indian pharma firms

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

US President Donald Trump's plan to introduce 25% tariff on imports of automobiles, semiconductors, and pharma could be bad news for India.

While the impact on Indian semiconductor sector is expected to be negligible as the industry is still at a nascent stage, the tariffs could inflict pain on pharma firms for whom the US is the largest export market.

As for India's auto industry, only 0.2% of car exports go to the US. However, higher levies on auto parts could deal a blow as the auto components segment grew 7% to $11.1 billion in the first half of FY25, with North America accounting for 31% of exports.

Pharma exports to the US reached $8.73 billion in Financial Year 24, accounting for 31% of the industry's total exports, according to the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) data.

Indian drugmakers expect some impact as the industry heavily relies on American demand for growth.

Sun Pharma generated 32% of its total revenue from the US in fiscal 2024. Similarly, North America contributed 47% of Dr. Reddy's total sales and 30% of Cipla's revenue during the same period.

At present, there is no import duty on Indian pharmaceuticals in the US.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

UNDER THE BRAND BENGALURU INITIATIVE

NAMMA ರಸ್ತೆ

Road Design Oriented workshop & Exhibition

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and
Bengaluru Urban Development Minister
Government of Karnataka

Inauguration of Conference, flagging of Mobile BBMP Laboratory
& Release of Namma Raste Kaipidi

D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and
Bengaluru Urban Development Minister, Government of Karnataka

20.02.2025, Thursday | 10.00 AM

DR RAJKUMAR GLASS HOUSE
BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru

Namma Raste 2025, an exhibition and convening by BBMP is to advance the design, operation, and maintenance of roads in Bengaluru. It takes a data-driven approach to address the city's mobility challenges, focusing on making transport more efficient and accessible for all while ensuring the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Under the Concept of Brand Bengaluru, we aim to provide integrated mobility solutions for all citizens, including high-quality roads, footpaths, safe junctions, and efficient metro, suburban train, and bus services.

To be in involved in **"Namma Raste 2025"** workshop, get registered using the link. **https://bit.ly/NammaRaste2025**

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- High Density Corridor
- White Topping Road
- Widening of RMP Road
- Development of 75 junctions' beautification and creation of public space at selected 25 junctions.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC)
- Tunnel Road
- Sky deck
- Elevated Road
- Up gradation of 400km roads in the limit of BBMP
- Equipping Bengaluru with LED street lighting

Special Note: "Attention, residents and college students of the city! You are invited to a special exhibition on Bangalore Road Development. This is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming infrastructure projects. Join us in large numbers and be a part of the city's growth story!"

Knowledge Partner WRI (INDIA)

Nammaraste kaipidi prepared with support of IISc & WRI India.

The Constitutional Fundamental duty of every Indian is to protect public property and renounce violence